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May 25, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT SB 1044 (LIU) AND INSTRUCT THE SACRAMENTO
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO ENSURE THE
BILL'S PASSAGE (ITEM NO. 9, AGENDA OF MAY 29, 2012)**

Item No. 9 on the May 29, 2012 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas requesting the Board of Supervisors to support SB 1044 (Liu), instruct the County's Legislative advocates in Sacramento to take appropriate actions to ensure the bill's passage and to notify the Board of any substantive revisions that modify the intent of the bill.

SB 1044 (Liu), which as amended on March 19, 2012, would repeal the Library of California Act of 1998 and make conforming changes to the California Library Services Act (CLSA) of 1977 relating to the administration of public libraries.

Specifically, SB 1044 would: 1) repeal the Library of California Act of 1998 and require that, beginning on January 1, 2013, the members of the California Library Services Board be the same persons serving on the former Library of California Board as it existed on December 12, 2012, who would serve for the duration of their terms; 2) delete the requirement that each library system establish an advisory board; 3) delete the annual allowance for the improvement and maintenance of coordinated reference services support to the members of a library system; 4) delete the authorization for a library system to apply for funds for special services programs; and 5) update the name

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of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act to the Federal Library Services and Technology Act.

The California Library Services Act of 1977: 1) establishes the California Library Services Board; 2) allows a library system to receive funds for coordinated reference services; 3) authorizes a library system to apply for funds for special services programs; 4) requires a library system to apply for funds for intrasystem communications and delivery and for planning, coordination and evaluation of overall system services; and 5) requires each library system to establish an administrative council and an advisory board.

The Library of California Act of 1998 augments the services provided under the CLSA and establishes regional library networks composed of libraries that agree to share services and resources with one another, establishes the Library of California Board and requires that the initial members to be those persons serving on the California Library Services Board.

The County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd participated in recent discussions among the California State Library, California Library Association and California public library directors to develop recommendations for changes to CLSA. The Public Library indicates that SB 1044 would remove programs within CLSA that are outdated and would delete the authorization for programs that were never defined or funded. While the bill would delete the regional advisory boards, almost all public libraries in California have a Library Commission or Board of Trustees making the regional advisory boards duplicative. The Public Library notes that the Library of California Act was never funded and in many respects, has been superseded by the advent of the Internet and other online resources for library patrons.

According to the Public Library, the author of the bill intends these revisions as a first step toward reshaping CLSA for the 21st century. The Public Library indicates that the interests of the public are best served when library services are provided using best practices and current technology. In addition, this legislation would accompany a campaign on the part of the California Library Association to have CLSA funding restored.

This office and the Public Library support SB 1044; however, there is no existing Board policy to support proposals that would repeal the Library of California Act of 1998 and make conforming changes to the California Library Services Act of 1977. **Therefore, support for SB 1044 is a matter for Board policy determination.**

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SB 1044 is supported by the California Library Association and the California Special Districts Association. There is no registered opposition on file. This measure passed the Senate Floor by a vote of 37 to 0 on May 10, 2012 and is currently awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Education Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:LY:lm

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel